

1-79 = 1 D2 Superintendant of Nurses

1 School of Nursing

1 D2 Mary von Olshausen 1874

1 D2-18

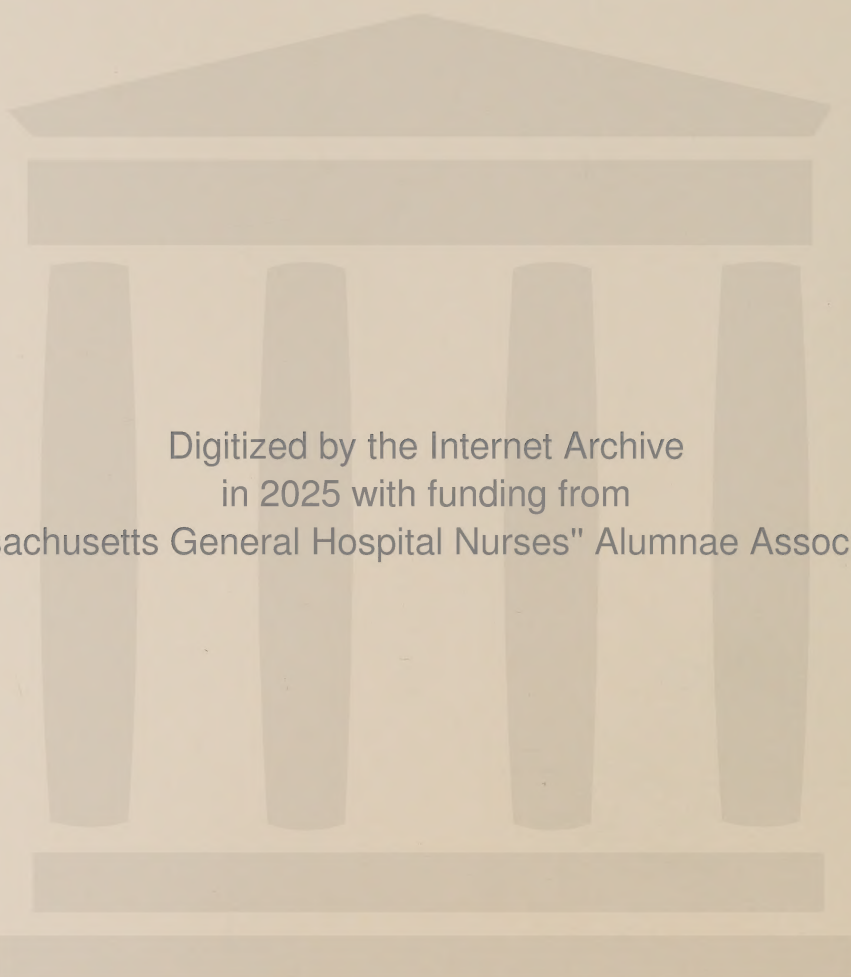
Amphiprion

Two letters from Dr. Alfred Worcester
to Sara Parsons re: Mary Phineas von Olshausen
dated Nov. 16, 1921 + Feb. 13, 1922

One letter from James Phineas Worcester to
Sara Parsons re: M. P. von Olshausen (his aunt)
dated Feb. 20, 1922

One page (p. 29) cut from a book showing
a photo of M. P. von Olshausen

4 items Total



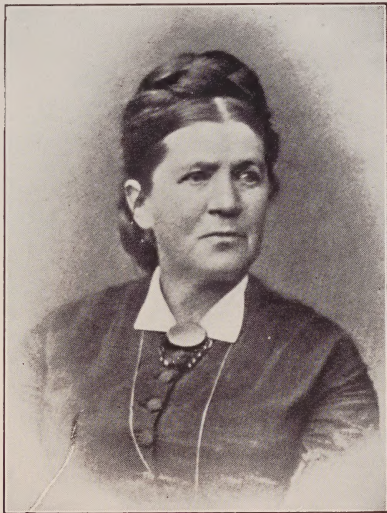
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TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES

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not gone smoothly. She was succeeded by an unusual woman, the Baroness von Olnhausen, who carried on the experiment for the next ten months. James Phinney Munroe, her nephew, in a recent letter concerning his aunt, writes as follows:

I remember very clearly, as a boy of eleven or twelve, visiting quite often my Aunt Mary, who lived in one or two rooms on Allen Street while in charge of the Training School for Nurses. She used to utilize me in reading aloud to some of the patients, in what was then a new one-story ward called, I think, Ward A. I can still see that sunny and attractive room, for, whatever may



MARY VON OLNHAUSEN

Nov. 16 / 21

My dear Miss Parsons:

I am sending you
a copy of my address on
the baroness von Oelhausen —
your predecessor at the M.G.H.

Her nephew "Johnny" Munroe,
& his son (whose name I forget)
have told me about her.

So, too, John Collins Warren M.D.

And Major Higginson remembered
her with gratitude. Old folks
in Lexington still remember
her well. — When Prince
Henry of Prussia came to
Berlin some twenty years
ago she was the only person
he asked to see — and his

commission was to pin upon her
the highest decoration ever given
to women, which the Imperial
Govt had been ordered by the
old Kaiser Wilhelm to give but
had never been able to find her.

She was then living in very
humble quarters on Shawmut
Ave., supporting herself by
embroidery work in which
she was an artist.

Please make any use of
my address - but without
quoting me, as, after all, I
myself was able to add
nothing to what others have
said before, in her honor

Yours sincerely
Alfred Worcester

DR. HENRY A. WOOD
DR. ALFRED WORCESTER

DR. DWIGHT O'HARA
DR. H. QUIMBY GALLUPE

Feb. 13. 1922

My dear Miss Parsons:

I am sending to you by parcel post a copy of "The Life & Letters of Baroness v. Olshausen" by her nephew, James Phinney Munroe - which only lately has come into my possession, or I should have sent it to you instead of my article that was founded on a chance reading of the book. Perhaps the portrait in the book will be what you want. Or, as James Phinney Munroe is living in Boston (I think) perhaps from him, or from Dr. Donald (?) Munroe, a son of our old friend Dr. "Johnny" C. Munroe who was another nephew of the Baroness, you might get a better & later portrait.

I am sorry I have not their addresses,

but the Telephone may help you
to find them.

In this connection, perhaps it will
not be amiss to warn you of a
very uncomplimentary comment upon
Maj. Phinney's bone-setting ability
in Major Higginson's recently published
Life & Letters. I had talked with
him about that episode, & he only
vaguely remembered that the
surgeon's leg had to be ~~re-broken~~
or set afterwards. - Perhaps
Dr. L. R. Stone, Newton ("Jim" Stone's
father) the old surgeon of Maj.
Higginson's regiment, could
give you light upon the controversy.

Yours sincerely

Alfred Worcester

Munroe Felt and Paper Co.
Office 79 Summer Street

James P. Munroe
President and Treasurer
William T. McAlpine
General Manager
Thomas E. Allen
Superintendent

Mr. Richardson

Boston, February 20, 1922

Miss Sara E. Parsons
Training School for Nurses
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston 14, Mass.

Dear Madam:

Replying to your letter of the 16th, it will give me great pleasure to have you use, in the forthcoming history of the Training School, the picture of my aunt, Mary von Olnhausen, which serves as the frontispiece of the "Adventures of an Army Nurse in Two Wars." It was the most satisfactory one that I could find. I shall be glad, also, to have you use such extracts from the book as you may care to make.

I remember very clearly, as a boy of eleven or twelve, visiting quite often my aunt Mary, who lived in one or two rooms on Allen Street while she was in charge of the Training School for Nurses. She used to utilize me in reading aloud to some of the patients in what was then a new one-story ward called, I think, Ward A. I can still see that sunny and attractive room for, whatever may have been my aunt's shortcomings as an administrator, she had a genius for giving to the wards over which she presided an extraordinarily homelike atmosphere.

I was too young, of course, to comprehend what was going on, but I presume that Mrs. von Olnhausen's knowledge of nursing was too much of the "rule of thumb" order to serve as a sound basis for a genuine training course and that she was too full of enthusiasm and too lacking in tact to be fitted for the exacting work of organizing a new service. I am certain, however, that she keenly enjoyed her work and that any want of success was not due to indifference or laziness on her part. She worked, as always, at top speed and with enormous energy. If she fell short of full achievement, it was because she had been induced to undertake a piece of constructive work for which, temperamentally, she was not well fitted.

Yours very sincerely,

James P. Munroe

1-79 = 1 D2
Superintendent of Nurses

1 School of Nursing

